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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AmEmbassy, Kabul

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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

August 29, 1956
DATE

REF :

67 To Dept. Use Only	ACTION H-2 REC'D 9/6	DEPT. I N E O OTHER CIA-6, USIA-10, ARMY-4, NAVY-3, AIR-3
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SUBJECT: Visit to Kabul by Senator Allan J. Ellender, August 21-22

As indicated in advance in the Department's telegram to Moscow No. 77, July 19, 1956, United States Senator Allan J. Ellender visited Kabul August 21-22. He arrived via the Soviet airline, Aeroflot, at 11:00 a.m. August 21. He left Kabul the following morning to visit the Helmand Valley projects. On the morning of August 23 he proceeded to Amritsar, India. From Kabul to Kandahar and to Amritsar, Senator Ellender was transported aboard the plane of the Embassy's Air Attache.

Because of the brevity of time, Senator Ellender made no official calls upon Afghan leaders. His only conference in Kabul was a two hour briefing session by Embassy, ICA and USIA officials on the afternoon of the day of his arrival.

Following the briefing session, Senator Ellender visited the U.S. pavilion at the Kabul International Fair. This was three days before the opening of that Fair and the Senator was able to get a fair impression of United States participation. He found the exhibition an excellent subject for photography. In the evening of the day of his arrival Senator Ellender was guest of honor at a dinner given by Ambassador Mills, attended by some 20 guests, approximately half of them Afghan officials.

At the Embassy briefing session on the afternoon of August 21, Senator Ellender was friendly. He inquired primarily into the activities of the United States Operation Mission. Virtually the only question on his mind was the extent of U.S. economic aid to Afghanistan. He seemed to be pleased that until now such aid has been limited to the recently concluded air transportation development project and to a \$500,000 project for assisting in the operations and maintenance of the Helmand Valley Canal System. Further details of the Senator's discussion of the ICA program in Afghanistan are contained under ICA Airgram authored by USOM Director Robert M. Snyder, dated and postmarked August 23.

During the briefing session, Ambassador Mills took the occasion to outline in a frank and forthright manner the objectives of American policy in Afghanistan. The Senator was strongly outspoken against the extension of economic aid to Afghanistan as elsewhere as a matter of principle but did not seem to take too great an exception to current American moves for assessing the situation in the Helmand Valley and for bringing Afghanistan and Pakistan closer together via roads and other communications projects. He made no comment at all on any of these, however, nor on the recently concluded Air Transportation Development project, which would

State Dept. review completed

AMMayer:ml

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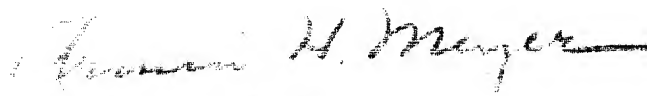
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Indicate what attitude he will adopt and the extent of his feelings when writing a report on his visit to this country.

In passing, it may be worth noting that Senator Ellender, who had just come from three weeks in the Soviet Union, was most enthusiastic about his Soviet visit. He was highly impressed by his 2 1/2 hour conversation with Mr. Khrushchev, as well as by the many evidences of great industrial progress which he personally observed during his visits to such places as Moscow, Leningrad, Munkh and Tashkent. He mentioned that when he returned from his last trip to the Soviet Union, many American critics accused him of being "pro-Russian". This time, he said, they will be calling him "Red", because he intends enthusiastically to advocate a "New Look" in U.S.-Soviet relations. His thesis is that the Soviet Union is a "new giant leech in the world", that the Soviet Union is embarking on a tremendous program of industrial advancement and at the same time appears to be ready to coexist with the West. Accordingly, the Senator believes that this offers an opportunity for the United States to come to terms with the Soviets rather than "bleeding itself to death" through vast foreign aid expenditures.

All in all, Senator Ellender seemed to be quite friendly during his visit. Whether he will have any acute criticisms to level about the IIA or USIA program is not known. Presumably his conclusions, in any case, will be withheld until he has studied the answers to the extensive questionnaire which he had submitted in advance for USOM to answer.

For the Ambassador:



Arnold H. Mayer
 Counselor of Embassy

cc: AmEmbassy, Karachi
 AmEmbassy, Moscow

Department please pass USIA and ICA.